

Eventually the petals shrivel and fall off as the new watermelon grows. Hand pollinating several female flowers is recommended for seed saving.



Seeds are ready to harvest when melons are ready to eat.

Slice melon and remove seeds from the pulp.

Rinse seeds repeatedly in a jar, allowing viable seeds to sink to the bottom, and pouring off pulp and immature seeds that float to the top.

Rinse several times until all remaining seeds are clean.

Drain water from seeds and spread on a coffee filter, screen or paper plate to dry.

When stored in an airtight container, melon seeds are viable for 4-5 years.

CREDITS

<https://www.seedsavers.org/blacktail-mountain-organic-watermelon>

<https://www.seedsavers.org/learn#growing-guides>

Slices: https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0043/4900/1839/products/Watermelon-Blacktail-Mountain-CMYK_2560x.jpg?v=1536619576

Seeds: https://deskgram.net/p/1905351673204060125_5520930591

http://plantbreeding.coe.uga.edu/index.php?title=20.6_Watermelon

On plate: <https://www.diggers.com.au/media/products/142904/m.jpg>



WATERMELON

“Blacktail Mountain”

(*Citrullus lanatus*)

RPLMN.ORG/SEED



Plan a seed.

**Backyard Bounty Urban
Homesteading Meetup**

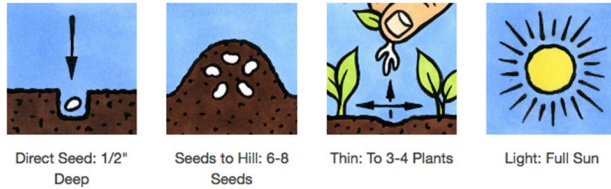
History Center
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HOW TO GROW



Plant outside after danger of frost has passed, and soil is warm.

Water consistently. Seeds should germinate in 4-10 days.

Watermelon vines can grow 10 feet or more - direct them by picking up the end of the vine and aiming them in the direction you want them to grow.

HOW TO HARVEST

Harvest watermelon when the underbelly turns yellow and tendrils brown and detach (slip) from the fruit, about 65-75 days from planting seed. Fruits should be 6-12 pounds each.



HOW TO EAT

Enjoy watermelons sliced or cubed, and add to salads and other desserts. Puree to use in drinks. Watermelon is an excellent source of vitamin A, C, and lycopene.



HOW TO SAVE SEED RATING: EASY

Watermelon is an annual and is insect pollinated. The easiest way to save pure seed is to grow only one variety of watermelon, *Citrullus lanatus*, in your garden at a time. If you grow more than one variety, cross-pollination can produce seeds that aren't pure. Hand pollination techniques must be used to avoid this.

Hand Pollination: Watermelon plants have yellow male and female flowers. Male flowers are on a long thin stem, and female flowers have a swollen stem behind the flower.

When a watermelon plant has both male and female flowers, hand pollination can be done over a two-day period. On the first day, choose a male and female flower that have not opened. Secure them shut with clothes pins or tape.

The next day, pick the male flower and fold back the petals. Brush the pollen from the male flower onto the surface of the stigma in the center of the female flower. Reclose the petals of the female flower with the clothes pin or tape, and mark the flower stem for later identification.

